

doing in reforming public education. It's a tough task as you know and I admire your efforts.

I was intrigued by the findings of the Education at a Crossroads report that highlighted characteristics of successful schools. I wholeheartedly agreed with that report and I would like to briefly touch on those findings and offer a few other comments as well.

Please understand that I offer a rural perspective on education and as such my background and feelings may differ from those of my urban colleagues. Rural Coloradans crave technology and would welcome any legislation that increases opportunities in that area for small districts. Technology of course comes with a price tag, but the return on the investment in this area makes it an acceptable cost. The SLC Universal Service Discount has been helpful but other funding opportunities would be welcomed as well.

I applaud your efforts to directly deliver dollars to the classroom instead of seeing a large portion of those funds siphoned off by the bureaucracy. You are most certainly on the right track in this area.

Schools also desperately need the ability to instill basic values in their populace. Respect for ones' elders, country, teachers, fellow students and school community are in my mind essential not only for successful schools but for a stable society as well. Court rulings and legislation restricting the rights of schools to discipline and set standards for their students have improved somewhat over the years, but more progress is still needed in this area.

Schools must be administered at the local level and even though I welcome federal funding from the budget side of the equation, that enthusiasm is tempered by the knowledge that increased federal control may also result from this arrangement.

Special Education is another topic of great concern. I feel that it has become a trap that students often do not return from. It needs to be streamlined so that the classification of students with disabilities is a true and accurate one and not just a convenient label to explain away juvenile behavior.

My Catholic school background tells me that some of these students need a paddle against their backside and not a protective label that provides a ready made excuse to justify anti-social behavior. IDEA legislation should be written to ensure that only those who have a significant need for special education services actually qualify. We are pleased, however, with the Title One program and how it operates in our district.

Vocational Education has the potential to offer a wide variety of opportunities for rural America and as such I ask that continued funding of those programs remain a priority.

After I familiarize myself with specific topics facing Congress through your Ed-Link publication I would be willing to comment on those issues in greater detail. I feel I have spoken today in a very broad sense but I hope my comments are still of some value to you as you tackle the challenges facing America's schools.

Thanks for your time and effort on behalf of the citizens of House District 4 and thanks again for the opportunity to serve on your education advisory committee.

Sincerely,

GERALD KEEFE,
Superintendent.

HONORING JUDGE ASCHER KATZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a man who has devoted himself to his community. Judge Ascher Katz is not only Administrative Town Judge of Greenburgh, serving on the bench for 23 years, but a man who has immersed himself in the judicial profession as a Director of the County Magistrates Association and as a Chairman of the state Bar Association Committee on District, City, Village and Town Courts.

Judge Katz is also in Who's Who in American Law and a senior partner in his law firm. But he also serves the community as a whole; as a Charter Member of the U.S. Holocaust Commission, in the Jewish War Veterans, as a board member of the American Cancer Society, and in the Rotary and B'nai B'rith. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and he and his wife have three daughters. On his retirement I want to thank him for all he has done for his community and to wish him the very best.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65th Anniversary of Chapter No. 30, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Organized on May 23, 1934, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans was formed to work with the Post, visit the hospitalized veterans and to participate in all patriotic, civil and religious functions.

Throughout the past 65 years, the Ladies Auxiliary has worked hard for the veterans of Chapter 30 of the Polish Legion by participating in many activities, such as, parades, Memorial Masses, Civil functions, and ward treats at Wade Park and Brecksville V.A. Hospitals. This Chapter has also been involved with State and National Conversions, Veterans and Women of the Year, Evening in Warsaw, State Picnic, Night at the Races and Bowling Tournaments.

The Ladies Auxiliary is dedicated to raising money to support veterans by holding fund raisers such as, Card Parties, Bingo's, Dinners, Picnics, Bake Sales, and Poppy sales. Throughout their years of service of helping veterans, Chapter No. 30 has accumulated over 35,000 registered volunteer hours.

The members of the Chapter are proud of their Polish Heritage and culture and proud to have accomplished so much in the past 65 years. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans well in to the next millennium.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work and dedication of The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

IN CELEBRATION OF REV. MSGR. GERARD LA CERRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has devoted his life to God and who has served faithfully as a priest for 30 years. Reverend Monsignor was born on March 12, 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969, after completing his seminary studies at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Sacred Theology.

His many ecclesiastical achievements began in 1969 when he was Regional Coordinator for Religious Education in Broward County. From 1970 to 1977 he was Director of the MA Program in Religious Studies. A member of the Faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary from 1972 to 1974, he was also Secretary of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education from 1974 to 1978.

In 1978 he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Miami and served in that capacity until 1993. In addition, he was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in 1984, a position in which he served until March 1995. In this capacity he served as Executive Director of the Ministry of General Services. Besides membership on various Archdiocesan boards and commissions, he is also Chaplain to the Daughters of Isabella.

At a Pastoral level, Msgr. La Cerra was Associate Pastor at Annunciation, Little Flower (Coral Gables) and St. James Parishes. From 1978 until May 15, 1991 he was named Pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral.

In December of 1992 he was appointed administrator of St. Timothy Parish in Miami and currently he holds the Pastoral position. He was given the title of Reverend Monsignor by the highest authority of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, in September of 1995. We are fortunate to have this admirable Monsignor in South Florida and I commend Reverend La Cerra for his many accomplishments.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL ANTI-VIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, juvenile crime today tends to be more violent and involves younger children than in the past. The recent tragedies involving school violence has prompted parents, teachers, administrators, and elected officials to work together and set the safety of our children as a national priority. Congress needs to get its priorities in line as well and act on legislation that would stop youth violence and make our schools safe.

According to a 1995 GAO report on school-based violence prevention programs, successful programs have the following characteristics: a comprehensive approach; an early start